

devoted to public objects - is a  
great orator most influential in  
the public life of the country -  
and to crown all an enthusiastic  
botanist with a very fine Herbarium  
kept in excellent order which  
is after his death to go to the  
Museum at Pesth -

We are now moving homeward  
and expect to reach London  
about the 15<sup>th</sup> October

My wife joins in the best & kindest  
wishes for Mrs Gray & yourself  
Always truly yours

John Ball

Grand Hotel Wien 30 Sept - 186

My dear Gray - I did not at  
once answer your kind letter  
which reached me somewhere  
in Hungary where we have  
been travelling for the last  
five weeks - Any spare time  
I had was given to correcting  
the sheets of a little book which  
will I hope come out in November.  
As you have done so much to  
encourage my South American  
speculations I think it may  
interest you at least here & there,  
& as I have made it as short  
as I could I am in hopes that you  
may read most of it. In due  
time you will of course receive  
a proper copy but in the mean  
time I shall send you the duplicate

Sheets of proof merely asking you to keep them to yourself until after the book is published - I am not so vain as to suppose that any American publisher would care to bring out the book, but I am bound to take care that no such accident shall happen to my publisher -

The part I am most anxious about is my plea for the ancient mountains of Brazil & as to this <sup>statement in the</sup> the proof is incomplete as it omits an important point which you will find in the correct copy.

We much enjoyed our Hungarian trip especially the two or three weeks which we spent in Transylvania. As you know it is botanically an interesting region producing a fair number of endemic species

as well as some representatives of the Eastern Flora such as *Brouckenthalia* & - Unluckily my first botanical excursion ~~was~~ in the mountains was also the last, I got drenched by a sudden storm & passed a miserable night in a shed got a bad cold & cough which very much limited further proceedings.

The progress of Hungary is wonderful. Out of the United States one can scarce anywhere see such a growth of fine towns - manufactures & railways & all the paraphernalia of modern civilization - with here & there some remains of a more primitive condition which makes the country the more interesting.

We paid a visit to Cardinal Hagnal one of the few remaining great bishops he is Archbishop of Kalocsa with a great revenue nearly all